it is certainly less than the previous year. As I have said, the production is coming down and as a result of this, we are not able to meet the requirements of the State Governments. But, we have a plan to make coal as a domestic fuel in this country. We have taken up two major steps for that. One is to have a special smokeless fuel unit and the other is setting up of bricketting Unit. The setting up of bricketting units will be much more easier. There are two problems of coal becoming a domestic fuel. It creates a lot of smoke. Therefore, we have developed a technology for that and that problem has been overcome. The second problem is that the coal takes a long time to burn. It takes five to 10 minutes to burn. We have to put some firewood and then out the coal and then it burns. In some countries like France and Korea, they have developed a technology where coal can be burnt instantly. It can be ignited instantly with a match box. We have sent samples of our coal to France and just about a week ago, it had come back with all the results. France is agreeable to give us that technology also. After having got that technology, I think, we can go in a big way to popularize coal as a domestic fuel, but I must say that it is going to take some time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether coal is supplied to the States according to their demand. Do you supply coal in accordance with the advance deposited under cash and carry system?

MR. SPEAKER: Its reply has already been given. He has already stated that they are not able to supply the coal as per requirement.

[*English*]

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon. Minister there is no indication at all regarding the allotment of coke to the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Sponge Iron (India) Limited, a public sector undertaking is being closed in Palvancha for want of supply of coal. So, in view of the fact, will the hon. Minister take note of the requirement of that particular public sector unit and take adequate steps to supply to the unit that the unit do not become sick?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, soft coke is normally used only in those states where the coal is produced. There is a crude way of processing the coal and it is mainly confined to two major states of India, they are West Bengal and Bihar.

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: In Andhra Pradesh also, Singareni collieries is there.

SHRI P.A. SANGAMA: This question has been addressed to Coal India. That is why I have no information, but I will collect the information and give it to you. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, I will look into that.

New Drug Policy

*108. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI DATTARAYA BANDARU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to revise the national drug policy;

(b) if so, the changes likely to be effected; and

(c) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). The review of the Drug Policy, 1986 and Drugs (Price Control) order, 1987 is under the active consideration of the Government.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHANVAN: Sir, the policy is under review, but there are

serious difference about which drugs are to remain under the Price Control Order. The reported decision to reduce the number of drugs from 143 to 63 and dropping of 62 drugs from the Price control Act is considered inflationary and anti-poor. There are representations by many voluntary organisations to review this decision. In view of this, I would like to ask the Minister whether there is any proposal to shift taking pricing decisions from department of chemicals to another body like the Drug price Control Commission or some other independent body.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: We have appointed a committee to study this pricing scheme. In three months' time, they may give the recommendations. After that, we will be able to say about it.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: It is well-known that action under the U.S. trade Act, Super 301 has been really promoted by the U.S. Pharmaceuticals industry which wants Indian Patent Laws to be changed. If that is accepted, it is going to increase the price of druge and pharmaceutical items in India by as much as five to ten times.

I want to ask whether the delay in announcing drug policy is as a result of U.S. pressure and whether this question has come up in the bilateral negotiation with the U.S. Government

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: There is no pressure from any side. But before giving the policy to the people, we want to take all the views of Parliament and others.

SHRI DATTACRAYA BANDARU: The answer which the Minister has given is, "The policy is under the active consideration". I want to know, through you, what is the meaning of "active consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: "Active consideration" means consideration.

SHRI DATTATRAYABANDARU: I want to know the inner meaning. Outer meaning, I understand.

Because of the policy of dilly dally of the Government, adulteration and mushroom growth of industry has come up. Because of this, the prices have also increased.

To control the prices and to avoid adulteration, are any special measure going to be taken by the Government?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: the Ministry of Health is dealing with it. The Drug controller of India is taking the review of that.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: While reducing the number of drugs from 120 to 60 under the Drug Price Control Order, will he take cognizance that essential drugs which are being used for purposes like anti-TB, anti-leprosy, anti-malaria are not affected and the prices are not affected by liberalisation?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: About this idea, we will study and take some decision at the apporopriate time.

SHRI SYED SHAHBUDDIN: The world health Organisation, considering the incidence of diseases in the tropical countries, has worked out a standard list of essential drugs which would be available at reasonable prices for the people. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is, in working out his list f 60 and odd drugs, has he included all those drugs which have been considered essential for the tropical parts of the world, for example, our country?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: That is to talk about the future policy. At present, under the 1986 drug policy, all these essential drugs are there.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: The basic objective of the drug policy is to provide quality drugs at a cheaper price. For the last two months, more than 12,000 drug manufacturing units which are manufacturing under the loan licensing system with the bigger pharmaceutical industry as ancillary units are closed down due to lack of coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Department of Fertilizers and Chemicals.

The Drug Contfoller who is supposed to supervise the activities is not in a position to say whether a particular unit is right whether it will not be making spurious drugs.

I would request the Prime Minister that the Ministry will intervene and see that 12,000 units which are established all over India start functioning again.

MR. SPEAKER: This is about the policy.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Some people went to the courts and the courts are going into it.

[*Translation*]

Share of Foreign Borrowings in Capital Investment

*110. NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the share of foreign borrowings in the capital investment in all the public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the estimated amount paid as interest on these borrowings; and

(c) the net profit earned by these undertakings during 1990-91?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDISTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) As on 31.3.1991, foreign loans constituted 15.54% of total investment in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

(b) Interest on foreign loans amounted to Rs. 1338.57 crores during 1990-91.

(c) Central Public Sector Enterprises earned overall net profit of Rs. 2367.74 crores during 1990-91.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the part (c) of the question, the Government has stated that there was a profit of about Rs. 2367.74 crores in 1990-91, while replying a question in the Rajya Sabha the Government said that the profit was Rs. 3781 crores in 1989-90. It means the profit is decreasing every year. We would like to know from the Government whether there is any time bound action plan to make the public sector more efficient so that more profit can be earned from it, and wasteful expenditure may be reduced. Further, I would like to know whether the Government is willing to prepare any time bound action plan for increasing net profit of this sector.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your question relates to the foreign borrowings in capital investment in all public sector undertakings and the net profit earned by these undertakings.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: The reason for decrease in profit was due mainly to low production of crude oil and also due to rise in wages and cost of inputs besides the Gulf War.

As regards the programme for increase of production, it has been clearly stated already in our new industrial policy that we are striving for more production and for more efficiency.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to extravagance and inefficiency of the public sector, I would like to know from the Government whether it has taken any decision to chalk out such programme for making public sector more viable, whether the Government is going to constitute an expert committee to give suggestions is this regard or whether the Government is going to include employees in the management to improve the functioning of public sector units.